

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 AID-05 /111 W
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R 171530Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2162
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: P.W. BOTHA WARNS SWAPO NAMIBIA:

REF: PRETORIA 4758

1. SUMMARY AND COMMENT: IN A REPORTEDLY WELL-RECEIVED SPEECH AT THE NATAL NATIONALIST PARTY CONGRESS AGUST 15, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, P.W. BOTHA, RESPONDED SHARPLY TO THE REPORTED REMARKS OF SWAPO LEADER SAM NUJOMA WHICH SET OUT CONDITIONS FOR SWAPO CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES (REFTEL). BOTHA CLAIMED THAT NO SA TROOPS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM NAMIBIA UNTIL THREE MONTHS OF PEACE HAD PASSED AND THAT NO AGREEMENT EXISTED CALLING FOR THE PRESENCE OF FIVE THOUSAND UN OBSERVERS IN NAMIBIA. BOTHA'S
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DISTORTIONS OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS AND GENERALLY TOUGH STANCE SHOULD BE SEEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE AND HIS PARTICULAR AUDIENCE, A PARTY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS. BOTHA'S STATEMENTS ARE ALSO PART OF THE PUBLIC EXCHANGE WITH SWAPO IN WHICH EACH SIDE IS SETTING OUT ITS OWN SLANTED INTERPRETATION OF HOW THE PROPOSALS WILL WORK. EXCERPTS FROM THE MINISTER'S SPEECH AS REPORTED IN THE CITIZEN FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

THERE IS A CLEAR PROVISION IN OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE WESTERN BIG FIVE THAT WE WILL ONLY START TO REDUCE THE SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA AFTER THREE MONTHS OF VISIBLE PEACE WAS EXPERIENCED.

I WANT TO ADD THAT IF HE (MR. NUJOMA) THINKS HE CAN CONTINUE TO TERRORIZE INNOCENT PEOPLE IN SWA UNDER THE PRETEXT THAT HE IS SUPPORTING THE WESTERN PEACE PLAN, WHILE HE IN FACT IS NOT SUPPORTING IT, THEN HE WILL FIND OUT THAT WE CAN INCREASE OUR TROOPS IF NECESSARY.

THIS IS A MATTER THAT MUST BE SETTLED BY BOTH SIDES. WE ARE THERE AT THE REQUEST OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA TO SAFEGUARD THEM. WE ARE BUSY HELPING THEM TO BUILD UP THEIR OWN DEFENSE FORCE. WE ARE THERE TO SEE THAT THE FIRES BURNING ON THOSE BORDERS ARE NOT FANNED ACROSS INTO SOUTH AFRICA.

AND IF MR. NUJOMA HAS NOT YET LEARNT HIS LESSON HE WILL FIND OUT THAT THERE IS STILL A HARDER ONE FOR HIM TO LEARN, HARDER THAN THE ONE HE HAS ALREADY BEEN TAUGHT.

I DO NOT WANT TO SOUND TRIGGER HAPPY, BUT SOUTH AFRICAN HONOUR IS AT STAKE. THE SAFETY OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IS AT STAKE BUT,
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WHAT IS MORE, THE HONOUR OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE IS AT STAKE.

THERE IS NO AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED NATIONS OR THE WESTERN POWERS THAT 5,000 UN TROOPS WILL COME TO SWA. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE HAVE NOT AGREED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF UN TROOPS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN ANY CASE IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO BRING 5,000 TROOPS TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA. IF ONE NEEDS SO MANY TROOPS, THE SOUTH AFRICANS THEMSELVES CAN JUST AS WELL DO THE JOB.

SO MR. NUJOMA CAN FORGET THAT 5,000 UN TROOPS WILL COME TO SOUTH WEST WHETHER THEY ARE OBSERVERS OR NOT.
END TEXT.
EDMONDSON

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